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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription

12/20/96

[redacted] Attorney at Law, PAUL HASTINGS, JANOFSKY, & WALKER, 555 Flower Street, Los Angeles, California 90071, telephone number [redacted] and [redacted] was advised of the identity [redacted] b6 of the interviewing agent and the nature of the interview. [redacted] b7c provided the following information:

[redacted] ERIC WRIGHT, rap singer and former owner of RUTHLESS RECORDS. [redacted] was responding to a business card left by Deputy [redacted] LOS ANGELES SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, which had been placed in the mail box of her client at [redacted] California. b6 b7c

[redacted] provided the following brief synopsis of the history of RUTHLESS RECORDS and [redacted] to assist the interviewing agent: b6 b7c

Over the years, various local rap singers had signed contracts with WRIGHT's record label, RUTHLESS RECORDS. They eventually began to believe that JERRY HELLER, WRIGHT's manager, was dishonest with them financially, and so HELLER became a sore point in the company. In the Spring of 1991, some of the rap artists wanted to be released from the RUTHLESS RECORDS label contract because they were becoming successful on their own. WRIGHT refused to cancel the contracts and thereafter began to receive death threats. At one point, WRIGHT was visited by [redacted] et al, who were b6 b7c armed with bats and lead pipes threatening WRIGHT to cancel the contracts. HELLER was also allegedly visited and threatened in a like manner, with a gun held to his head. There were no witnesses to the visit to HELLER.

In 1992, as a result of the death threats, WRIGHT hired [redacted] for [redacted] a position he kept until WRIGHT's death. Payments to [redacted] i.e. 1099's, are represented in the bookkeeping records of RUTHLESS RECORDS. [redacted] impressed WRIGHT that he (WRIGHT) was indispensable [redacted] b6 b7c
 [redacted] In addition, HELLER, who has known [redacted] for years, [redacted] WRIGHT and HELLER had a falling out in the Fall of 1994 and [redacted] WRIGHT eventually did [redacted] cancel the contracts as a result of the death threats.

On 3/27/95, [redacted] filed a lawsuit against [redacted]

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Investigation on 12/17/96 at Los Angeles, CA (telephonically)

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File # [redacted]

by SA [redacted] Date dictated 12/20/96

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Continuation of FD-302 of [redacted], On 12/17/96, Page 2 b7C

[redacted] Attorney for [redacted] The lawsuit was filed at the Los Angeles Superior Court [redacted] the day after ERIC WRIGHT died. In the lawsuit, [redacted] claimed [redacted]

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[redacted] The lawsuit did not go to trial as it was settled out of court. The results of the lawsuit were classified by the court as "confidential" and would require a subpoena.

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During the lawsuit, the court ordered the offices of RUTHLESS RECORDS to be closed, which, at the time was on file with the INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE as an F Corporation with taxes paid up to date. CHEMICAL TRUST COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA (CTC) was appointed by the court as the Corporation Special Administrator. [redacted] this court appointment.

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During the time period of the lawsuit, incoming telephone calls received at RUTHLESS RECORDS were diverted to [redacted] (last name unknown), [redacted] this diversion.

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Special Agent [redacted] of the Los Angeles Field Office of the FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION interviewed [redacted] and [redacted] concerning [redacted] [redacted] thinks the case was closed when SA [redacted] was transferred to another squad.

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In addition to the abovementioned lawsuit, [redacted] filed a lawsuit against [redacted] in either February or March, 1996. The lawsuit alleges that [redacted] Because ERIC WRIGHT became very ill near the end of his life, he appointed [redacted]

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He instructed [redacted] to telephonically contact all his business associates and contacts and advise them of same. When [redacted] attempted to contact [redacted] he was not available, [redacted] left a voicemail message on his telephone answering machine. [redacted] returned [redacted] call [redacted]

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Continuation of FD-302 of [redacted], On 12/17/96, Page 3

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In yet another lawsuit, [redacted]

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b7C[redacted] It was another situation in which [redacted]
[redacted] The case was filed in Los Angeles Superior
Court.

[redacted] offered that during 1980-81 [redacted]

[redacted] is not sure if [redacted]

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b7C[redacted] has heard
rumors that [redacted][redacted] was agreeable to an interview with her client
sometime after the first of the new year and suggested that
writer review all of the court declarations, motions, and
pleadings prior to the interview.b6
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription

07/13/95

On July 7, 1995, [redacted] Financial Services for RUTHLESS RECORDS, 21860 Burbank Boulevard Suite 100, Woodland Hills, California, telephone [redacted] was advised of the identity of the interviewing agent and the purpose of the interview and provided the following information.

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[redacted] was interviewed regarding his knowledge of possible stolen master recordings which are the property of RUTHLESS RECORDS. [redacted] joined RUTHLESS in [redacted]. He stated that RUTHLESS RECORDS is also known as COMPTOWN RECORDS. It is privately owned by ERIC WRIGHT, aka "EAZY E". RUTHLESS has an agreement with RELATIVITY RECORDS for RELATIVITY to do the manufacturing and distribution of recordings produced by RUTHLESS artists.

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He stated that starting in late February, WRIGHT became seriously ill and was hospitalized due to complications from AIDS. Information about WRIGHT's hospitalization was kept quiet and no one at RUTHLESS knew of the illness.

About the time when WRIGHT entered the hospital, a woman named [redacted] and an attorney named [redacted] "came into the picture". [redacted] On February 20, 1995 [redacted] received a facsimile allegedly from WRIGHT which [redacted] provided a copy of this document to the interviewing agent. [redacted]

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[redacted] then requested financial information regarding the company but [redacted] said he would not release the information without WRIGHT's approval. [redacted] picked up the telephone and dialed a number and [redacted] spoke to WRIGHT who authorized the release of information. A few days before WRIGHT's death, WRIGHT and [redacted] were married at the hospital and WRIGHT changed his will making [redacted] and [redacted] the executors of the estate.

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Investigation on 07/07/95 at Woodland Hills, CA. File # 28A-LA- 187669-10

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SA [redacted]

Date dictated

07/13/95

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2000-10-06-10

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JUL 2 1 1995	
FBI LOS ANGELES	

PLS

28A-LA-

Continuation of FD-302 of [redacted]

, On 07/07/95 , Page 2

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[redacted] During this same time frame, a dispute arose between [redacted] and [redacted] an employee of RUTHLESS. [redacted] claimed that [redacted]

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[redacted] stated that he was not familiar with any business arrangements between WRIGHT and [redacted] does not know what title [redacted] carries but stated that [redacted] came into the office a few days a week [redacted] Prior to WRIGHT's illness, WRIGHT only came into the office now and then.

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WRIGHT's original business partner was JERRY HELLER. HELLER was the General Manager. HELLER and WRIGHT had a falling out and HELLER was fired in February. HELLER and WRIGHT started RUTHLESS. After HELLER was terminated [redacted]

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On March 17, 1995, just prior to WRIGHT's death, [redacted] secured the offices of RUTHLESS. Three days later, [redacted] and [redacted] had changed the locks on the doors at RUTHLESS and would not allow any employees to enter including [redacted] and [redacted] was advised by [redacted] to "go home and sit tight". About one week later, the Court secured the offices and [redacted] and [redacted] were also denied access.

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[redacted] was contacted several weeks later by CHEMICAL BANK and asked to return to RUTHLESS at noon on April 27, 1995. [redacted] was the only person authorized to enter the office. The Trustee from CHEMICAL advised [redacted] that he was not to make business decisions and that everything had to go to the Trustee but that he was to keep the company running.

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During the next few weeks, [redacted] remembered leaving the office on a Friday and the message on the answering machine was the usual message. While sitting in the office the following Monday, [redacted] was screening calls because he could not handle the amount of in-coming calls by himself. During one call-in, he noticed that when the answering machine picked up, the

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28A-LA-

Continuation of FD-302 of [redacted]

, On 07/07/95, Page 3 b6 b7C

message on the machine had been changed and [redacted] changed it back. He stated that he doesn't remember the exact message but that it gave a new phone number for RUTHLESS in Canada. b6 b7C

He advised that although he was the only person with physical access to the office, the message can be changed by remote telephone access. He denied changing the message himself. He only remembers that the voice on the new message was that of a male and stated that he really didn't pay attention to the message and just changed it back.

He believes that on one occasion, [redacted] from CHEMICAL TRUST was at RUTHLESS when a man named [redacted] called. He stated that he had a deal with RUTHLESS. [redacted] said he knew nothing about it and didn't have time to deal with this and terminated the call. b6 b7C

[redacted] stated that he does not have any additional information. He knows that there have been lots of discussions about the possibility of missing master recordings but he has no information about it. He stated that [redacted] is now running RUTHLESS and was appointed by the Court. He stated that he has not heard of any bootlegging of WRIGHT's recordings. b6 b7C

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 07/21/95

On July 18, 1995, [redacted] appeared at the Los Angeles Office of the FBI with his attorney, [redacted] for the purpose of being interviewed regarding his knowledge of copyright matters. [redacted] was advised of the identity of the interviewing agent and the purpose of the interview and provided the information contained herein.

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[redacted] provided background information regarding his client. [redacted] stated that [redacted] of RUTHLESS RECORDS (RR). He was considered [redacted] since [redacted] stated that his client has [redacted]

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[redacted] There is currently a dispute [redacted]

[redacted] believes [redacted]

[redacted] advised that he started with RR in [redacted] for WRIGHT and RR. Prior to [redacted] also claims to [redacted]

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[redacted] When he became [redacted] his responsibilities included [redacted]

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Sometime in [redacted] received a telephone call from JERRY HELLER of RR who said [redacted] were threatening to kill WRIGHT and HELLER if HELLER didn't release [redacted] from their contracts.

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When HELLER called [redacted] told HELLER to call the police. HELLER stated that he couldn't do this because of the type of people, namely gang members, that he was dealing with and RR's artists

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Investigation on 07/18/95 at Los Angeles, California

File # 28A-LA-

SA [redacted]

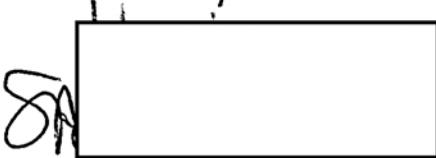
Date dictated 07/21/95

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Continuation of FD-302 of [redacted]

, On 07/18/95, Page 2 b6 b7C

were rap artists [redacted]
[redacted] HELLER didn't want to lose his artists. [redacted]

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According to [redacted]

[redacted] In 1994, sales for RR artists exceeded \$10 million. [redacted] RELATIVITY RECORDS provided monthly statements which listed gross sales. [redacted] this information when it came into RR.

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[redacted] believes that even WRIGHT didn't know he had stocks. The company was run more like a partnership than a corporation. [redacted] doesn't believe any stocks have been issued.

[redacted] Since WRIGHT'S death [redacted] has not been allowed to enter RR.

[redacted] was asked to provide information regarding a man named [redacted] who is allegedly [redacted]

[redacted] He stated that he received a telephone call from the Special Administrator, [redacted] who told him that a man in [redacted]

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[redacted] told [redacted] that when [redacted] spoke with [redacted] he told [redacted] that [redacted] asked him if he knew [redacted] and he stated he did not. He advised the writer that he only knows one person in [redacted]

[redacted] had told this woman to send the required paperwork to RR [redacted] He does not know if RR ever received the paperwork and never did a follow-up on this matter.

On or about May 9, 1995, [redacted] called [redacted] and asked [redacted]

[redacted] The first time he called [redacted] to speak with [redacted] another man answered the phone and [redacted] left his pager number for [redacted] to page him. [redacted] paged [redacted]

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Continuation of FD-302 of [redacted]

, On 07/18/95, Page 4 b6 b7C

[redacted] stated that he was contacted by and met with a homicide detective from the BEVERLY HILLS POLICE DEPARTMENT recently. They were apparently looking into WRIGHT's death and investigating whether WRIGHT died on his own.

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[redacted] was asked what he knew about [redacted]. He stated that to his knowledge, [redacted]

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[redacted] believes that [redacted]

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[redacted] stated that WRIGHT stayed at the apartment of [redacted] (LNU). He went to New York in December of 1994 to the MTV Music Awards and took [redacted] (LNU). [redacted] told the writer that WRIGHT had [redacted]

[redacted] stated that [redacted] was asked by the writer to provide information about his current employment.

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He was asked by the writer if [redacted] stated that he is not at this time but may in the future.

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[redacted] was asked if he was friendly with JERRY HELLER. He stated that he talks with him occasionally. HELLER lives in either Calabasas or Agoura. His telephone number is (818) 880-1014. [redacted] also talks with [redacted] calls him once in a while for information. He has also spoken with [redacted]

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[redacted] was asked who had access to the answering machine at RR and could change the message on the answering machine. He stated that HELLER, [redacted] and [redacted] claims [redacted] doesn't have the code to change the answering machine and had never heard of [redacted] until he was contacted by the Special Administrator.

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28A-LA-

Continuation of FD-302 of [redacted]

, On 07/18/95, Page 5 b6 b7C

[redacted] was advised by the writer that certain individuals associated with this case claim that [redacted] [redacted] He denied that and stated [redacted]

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[redacted] claims that the last time he traveled outside of the United States was in 1985 or 1886 and it involved a trip to Mexico.

[redacted] was asked what he knew about the "bootlegging" of BTH music. He stated that HELLER had heard that [redacted] at RELATIVITY RECORDS had information regarding this. [redacted] stated that he had no other information regarding this.

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[redacted] added that during his conversations with [redacted] [redacted] claimed that [redacted]

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[redacted] believes that [redacted] and the other [redacted] last contact with [redacted]

[redacted] He doesn't know where he is now.

[redacted] agreed to be polygraphed if requested to do so by the FBI. [redacted]

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[redacted] provided the following descriptive information:

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Name
Address

Date of Birth
Place of Birth
Citizenship



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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 08/30/2001

Source, who is not in a position to testify, provided the following information:

On August 21, 2001, source advised that [REDACTED] went to Mastro's restaurant on Canon Dr. Beverly Hills yesterday and met with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was also present talking to [REDACTED] is attempting to convince [REDACTED] to invest in a restaurant which would be operated by [REDACTED] and he is considering a location in the area of [REDACTED]

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Same date, [REDACTED] was at Frankie's restaurant on Melrose Ave. meeting with [REDACTED] Jerry Heller, a long time friend of [REDACTED] and involved in the music business, was talking to [REDACTED]

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Source advised that [REDACTED] was in town last week and had dinner with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

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On August 27, 2001, source advised that [REDACTED] went to Mastro's restaurant on Thursday with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Source stated that [REDACTED] is going to purchase [REDACTED] in the vicinity of [REDACTED] Los Angeles. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] each are going to invest [REDACTED] in the business.

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Investigation on 8/21, 27/01 at Los Angeles (telephonically)

File # 92A-LA-142948 ¹⁶⁹⁹ [REDACTED] Date dictated 8/30/01

by SA [REDACTED]

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